

workers; (vi) There was a further minor invasion of workers (no alated adults or pupae) on July 28th, and a few individuals were seen on subsequent days; but not after about Aug. 3rd. Locality: Coventry. W. Midlands. — JOHN ROBBINS, 123b Parkgate Road, Coventry CV6 4GF.

A RECENT ESSEX FIND OF *PROCRAERUS TIBIALIS* LAC. (COL.: ELATERIDAE). — On 24th March 1973 I discovered two larvae and remains of an imago of this scarce click-beetle in a large fallen beech in Hatfield Forest, South Essex; one larva was duly reared to maturity. All were near together in decayed (but fairly hard) 'worm-eaten' wood adjoining a cavity in the split-open trunk filled with wood-mould, which appeared totally barren of insects.

The sole published record of *P. tibialis* for Essex that I know of is an old one given by Fowler (1890, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 4: 94): 'Wanstead (Janson)', without date. It might be expected to have occurred in Epping Forest (as has its still rarer relative *Megapenthes lugens* Redt.), but appears never to have been found there. Hatfield Forest, near Bishop's Stortford, must not be confused with Hatfield, near St. Albans, in the adjacent county of Herts.: coincidentally, *Procrærus* was taken at the latter place only a few years before (see Allen, 1971, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 107: 12). — A. A. ALLEN.

STRATIOMYS POTAMIDA MG. (DIPT.), ETC., IN N. W. KENT. — On 13th June last I had the pleasure of encountering for the first time this impressive and uncommon fly — a very fine male — by sweeping lakeside vegetation at Danson Park, Welling, not far from here. It was perched almost on the rim of my net, probably about to take off, but I just managed to get a hand over it in the nick of time; which was fortunate, as no other turned up. This could perhaps be due to the fact that 13th June is the earliest date noted by Verrall (*Brit. Flies*, 5) for the species, whilst 1980 was not a forward season here. After 15th June, the lakeside is so choked with anglers that collecting is practically impossible.

I have not seen a definite Kent record of *S. potamida*, though it has occurred on the fringes of London — e.g., on the north side at Wood Green, Middlesex, with *S. longicornis* Scop. (Colyer & Hammond), and on the south side at Mitcham, Surrey (2 exx. with several *S. furcata* F., near the sewage works, G. Shephard, 30.vii.69). It is usually more of an inland and freshwater species like *S. chamaeleon* L., whereas the other two are equally at home in the brackish waters of estuarine areas.

Strangely, the late Dr. Oldroyd (1969, *Handb. Ident. Brit. Ins.*, 9(4): 28) seemed unaware of the occurrence of *furcata* in Kent, noting it as "generally a more northern species" and giving for the south an Essex record only. It is certainly the least scarce of our *Stratiomys* spp. in North Kent, having been taken, for instance, in the Thames Valley [county?] by Col. Yerbury (*teste* Verrall) and in the Thames Marshes by H. W. Andrews (Woolwich Surveys). I caught two females at hem-